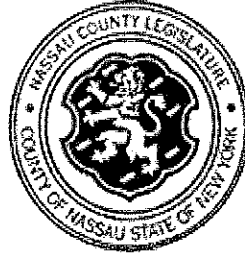


78-23


OFFICE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE - ROOM 131
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Inter-Departmental Memo

To: Michael C Pulitzer, Clerk of the Legislature

From: Robert Miles, Esq, Staff Counsel, Minority Caucus 

CC: Hon. Richard Nicoletto, Presiding Officer

Hon. Kevan Abrahams, Minority Leader

Date: February 15, 2023

Re: A RESOLUTION REQUIRING NASSAU COUNTY TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR ITS MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS BY JANUARY 1, 2035.

Attached please find the above referenced resolution which has been approved as to form per the Rules of the Legislature. Kindly distribute a copy to Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto along with our request that this item be placed on the next available legislative agenda and properly noticed in accordance with the County Government Laws of Nassau County and the adopted rules of the Nassau County Legislature.

Kindly provide a time stamped hard copy acknowledgement of your receipt.

Thank you.

2023 FEB 15 A 9 31

RECEIVED
NASSAU COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
FEB 15 2023

Introduced by: Legislator Joshua Lafazan

Co-sponsored by: Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams, Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton,
Legislator Arnold W. Drucker, and Legislator Debra Mulé

RESOLUTION NO. – 2023

A RESOLUTION REQUIRING NASSAU COUNTY TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY
FOR ITS MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS BY JANUARY 1, 2035.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Minority Counsel

WHEREAS, the world's leading climate scientists agree that the earth is warming at an unprecedented rate and that the emissions of greenhouse gases are the leading cause of climate change; and

WHEREAS, impacts associated with climate change include sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and changes to air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid severe, widespread and irreversible impacts of climate change, the global community must find ways to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance in reversing the effects of climate change, New York State has passed various laws to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, local governments, such as Nassau County, must do their part and help the state in accomplishing its goals in tackling climate change; and

WHEREAS, limiting carbon emissions during municipal operations and, ultimately, achieving carbon neutrality is one small step towards reducing emissions throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County, as a leading suburb and county in New York, must set ambitious goals and work tirelessly to address threats from flooding and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature strives to protect and continually improve the lives of its residents and can accomplish such goals by achieving carbon neutrality by January 1, 2035; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, notwithstanding the provisions of any federal, state, or local law or regulation to the contrary, the government of Nassau County shall be carbon neutral by January 1, 2035; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Nassau County Executive shall develop a plan to achieve carbon neutrality and such plan shall be delivered to the Nassau County Legislature by December 1, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, if the County Executive were to amend the carbon neutrality plan after December 1, 2024, then said amended plan shall be delivered to the Nassau County Legislature within ninety days of completion of the amended plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive shall deliver triennial reports to the Legislature illustrating the County's progress towards becoming carbon neutral, with the first progress report being delivered by December 31, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive is hereby authorized to formulate a carbon neutrality advisory board to help develop and produce a carbon neutrality plan and subsequent progress reports, and generally advise the County Executive on ways to achieve carbon neutrality; and be it further

RESOLVED, Nassau County shall seek out any and all applicable state and federal grants and incentives to ensure that it accomplishes its goal in being carbon neutral by 2035; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive shall utilize their best efforts to organize their agencies, boards, and commissions and govern in a manner that is both conducive towards achieving carbon neutrality and is cost-effective; and be it further

RESOLVED, Nassau County shall implement its carbon neutrality goal in a manner that is equitable, and protects and improves the quality of life for all residents, while ensuring that no communities are disproportionately impacted by its transition to carbon neutrality; and be it further

RESOLVED, any and all actions taken by Nassau County to achieve carbon neutrality shall comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and all other relevant laws and regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of Title 6 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a “Type II” Action within the meaning of Section 617.5 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.